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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 10868 091010Z

20
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 067592
P R 090745Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4232
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T TEHRAN 10868

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1
TAGS: PFOR, IR, SY, EG, IS
SUBJECT: SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN IRAN

1. WHEN LEARNED ON THURSDAY LAST THAT SHAH WOULD BE LUNCHING WITH SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM ON NOVEMBER 8, ASKED COURT MINISTER ALAM TO LET ME KNOW WHAT KHADDAM HAD TO SAY ON SUBJECT OF SYRIAN/ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS. MORNING NOVEMBER 9 ALAM GAVE ME FOLLOWING BRIEF READ-OUT WHICH HE RECEIVED FROM SHAH LAST EVENING: KHADDAM ATTACKED EGYPT AND PRESIDENT DADAT VERY HARD. KHADDAM PREDICTED THAT THE REGIME OF PRESIDENT SADAT WILL DEFINITELY FALL AND THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE THE UNITED STATEW WILL AGAIN BE THE LOSER. QUOTE NOT ONE SINGLE ARAB NATION IS TAKING SIDES WITH SADAT UNQUOTE STATED KHADDAM. SYRIA DOES NOT WANT TO SEE A GENEVA CONFERENCE. IN ANY EVENT IT HAS NO HOPE FOR THE SUCCESSFUL COUTCOME OF SUCH A CONFERENCE EVEN IF IT IS HELD. THE SHAH DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE SYRIANS HAVE GIVEN UP THEIR BELIEF IN A GENEVA CONFERENCE AND KHADDAM DID NOT EXPLAIN. WHAT HE DID DAY WAS THAT SYRIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL AND THAT IN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS IT WOULD NOT BE A PRE-CONDITION THAT THE PALIESTINIANS BE INVOLVED. WHEN KHADDAM MADE REFERENCE TH THE UNITED STATES BEING THE LOSER IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE SHAH INTERPRETED THIS AS MEANING THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD AGAIN BECOME STRONG IN THE AREA, ALTHOUGH KHADDAM DID NOT
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 10868 091010Z

SPECIFICALLY SAY THIS.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

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2. AT DINNER GIVEN HIM BY FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI ON
NOVEMBER 8, KHADDAM IS QUOTED BY TEH LOCAL PRESS AS SAYING
THAT THE SINAI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT HAD CLOSED THE DOOR
TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE WENT ON TO COMMENT THAT
THE AGREEMENT HAD ENABLED ISRAEL TO CONSOLIDATE ITS POSITION
ON BOTH FRONTS AND TO SPLIT ARAB RANKS. THE KAYHAN VERSION
OF KHADDAM'S REMARKS GOES ON AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE CHIEF
SYRIAN DIPLOMAT ALSO SAID THAT THE INTERIM ACCORD HAD
ENDED ISRAEL'S MILITARY SIEGE AND OPENED THE WAY FOR UNCHECKED
U.S. INTERVENTION. (PARA) THUS, HE CONCLUDED, ISRAEL HAD
BECOME MORE INTRANSIGENT THAN EVER AND WAS IN NO WAY AMENABLE
TO PEACE.(PARA) KHADDAM SAID THAT SYRIA REJECTED A SIMILAR
DEAL ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS FRONT BECAUSE IT WOULD BE A ONE-
SIDED AFFAIR LEAVING THE PALESTINIANS AND OTHER ARAB PARTIES
IN THE CONFLICT IN THE LURCH.(PARA) HE SAID THAT SYRIA
KNEW THAT THE PRICE OF FREEDOM WAS HIGH BUT"WE ARE
GOING TO PAY IT." UNQUOTE.
HELMS

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NNN

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